July 1807

Dear Sir,

I rec'd your favor, & have procured the bottles to your dimensions, cut them &c also order the Tin, but instead of sending it Gold - tis the Plate they have executed, both of the Block & it will be finish'd to-day - I shall send them both - perhaps you may find the plate of some use to you in your researches the Block shall be expedited tomorrow

In respect of the Gold Leaf, many attempts have been made by an expert, Gold Beater but all have prov'd fruitless - the Troops of taking up the slip, and inserting it in the pieces of gilt paper - appears from his Acct. perfectly easy, but that of laying it down again in the Book, with ability to transport it he deems impracticable - He suggests you pursue this Method, viz: while the slip of Gold Leaf lies on the Book to pass a Brush of a good polish & Dry, under it, at or near the middle where you wish it to bend or fold, - as at the fig: then lifting it up

fig:

DSI

gently, Slip on the Gilt Paper pincers; I think if you had a small size shut receiver — to hold temporarily over it, while you lift the lens up, you will find it convenient — it will obviate the necessity of yr putting yr Breath to exclude the vibration the breathing wd cause also, — lest you should not have a receiver convenient for the purpose, I will send one — Would not Mrs D. accomplish this extremely delicate piece of workmanship, better than either you or me? — I think it a little Job quite Calculated for the Female Hand. —

I am glad to find, that by my success with the Marchon, your Mind on that Head has been set at ease — I never once doubted succeeding as to the experiment, — but I confess my Patience has been for the while proved in endeavouring to produce heat upon Evacuation I did explain to you, both by a Sketch & by words — the Machine I had to give to the brass a certain thickness of wax, about Shilling; I need not therefore repeat this process; — this Method shd not however be mention'd to every one — as from first to last it has been very expensive — Was it made Public I might be deprived of the Profits of my Labour — Most proper when the Marchon has been release'd from the Mould in which the Wax was cast on the brass; — is, to cut the Space off, in the Lathe inside out, — in the middle to the brass; — any little inequalities are then Corrected with a file, — when if another Coating of the wax be requisite, I smear it over with Tar — 'You'll smile at this,' Shaving of the sealing wax reduc'd to powder, — by the same or, the surface of the Tar, to which it adheres, — either thin or thick as I may have occasion, for the surface to be, — by holding the same over a Hot Heater the Powder soon melts, & by turning it becomes an even surface I have now describ'd the whole process. —

Hey Jupiter to shew that I shall be quite ready for your final Instructions is but a fortnight — & Hark, I am wd Compt to Mrs D. Yrs &c. Sincerely

Wm Addams

Shut 7th July 1807.

16 June 1807

Dear Sir,

I shall send you tomorrow the Zinc Plate, the Gold Leaves, & a Lapis Rod, I have been much hurried or the Lace Lent them this Morn.g - perhaps I may also send a Manchon, - one of my first, & which was Condemn'd, - not one made in the machine Constructed for the purpose; at least not finish'd in it: You say, "you Cannot Conceive why I have not had the Dipping into melted Wax." If you recollect that was the 1st process; - it was fairly run, & not easily rejected; - it almost ruin'd us, the expence of the Wax being so great; - after all, we failed of success: - it is a plan that Cannot answer, - for the process Cannot be Completed at once, or three Dippings: - the Consequence is, that the Wax by repeated melting, loses its property of becoming a Glue; the Spirit with which it had been admix'd,

& made, Lard waporated;- & the whole becomes tough like Cheese;- the very idea of Dipping- w.d break my workmen's Hearts;- Give us, Lads, proof the inefficacy of it,- & thereon very respectfully have dismiss'd that Plan.- Some Pounds of Wax at 5 or 6 Shill.s p.r Pound, have been us'd in the attempt to succeed by dipping, tho small quantity of Spirits, also, until I had positively Stated that no Spirit sh.d be put with the Wax;- It was the difficulty produced by the process of Dipping, the plague & perplexity thereof, that induc'd me to devise another mode,- You seem to doubt the two I mention'd, Viz: with one & the other- & with regard;- I have only to add- that I spoke much within bounds,- I believe one Man has employ'd that time upon it,- not to mention that of others at all;- & we have not accomplish'd our Object yet,- & there is another work nearly gone, that has also been devoted to it:- I do not touch on these points, as a demonstration of Despondency;- that, is an ingredient that never belong'd to my Composition;- but to shew you,- that no expence, nor trouble has been wanting on my part,- to produce what cd be denominated a reasonable- & saleable article;- for, these two points, are as indispensably necessary as the success of the experiment to be produced by this machine:- the most extreme point of heating is certainly not what I am aiming at, nor I trust any- Only that w.d be so ridiculous; on the other Hand, no Dangling thing will suit me,- or be at all Consistent with my uniform System- in Business:- I flatter myself I know where to stop,- between the two points of heating, and cleansing;- I do not like to suffer in the Expence of executing this one, nor be laugh'd at, both by the Trade & the Public for the other;- Suffice to say these two,- I am persevering, and in doing so,- I have succeeded in Discovering a Mode whereby, I shall with very little

difficulty succeed in adding Coating after Coating from 1 to any number - without taking the Superior surfaces; — I never thought of his Plan, so likely as all Expects to succeed as the melting Ice was in the Machine I have contrived:- your argument, as to Confinement, does not apply to my method:- nothing can be more Compact, nor smoother than the surfaces are;- the whole of the two surfaces may be given in half an Hour or even the surfaces to a certainty - or the duration of the process - with a view to produce more density - by getting rid of all the bubbles & may be increased, at Libitum.—

Now for the Strawberries - they certainly Cannot Conquer old Age;- but they may eradicate a Complaint which like yrs is - perhaps - by no means the Consequence of Years.- I have seen you eat a plate of Turnips - or the Contents of a small Dish;- & I hope to hear that you have eaten at least the same Quantity of Peas, or Strawberries & Cream:- Con-

sider them, at this season, as almost the Balsam of Life - to You:- the best time to eat them, is, when you can take a Glass or two of Madeira with them,

Port wine is not the thing, exactly in this Case;- nor Tea;- or any admixture with Water.- I must quit the Theme, or by my Prescribing you'll dub me Doctor

& Sir, I am by no means ambitious to obtain. - I hope soon to see

you & wish you Complete recovery

I am Dear Sir Respectfully Yours &c.

Wm Lyon

Wm Lyon

25th June 1817

12 June 1807

Dear & Respected Sir

How seems to me to be a misunderstanding between us respecting the success of the Manchon - You appear to class the difficulty, I have stated to have experienced, with that of the experiment itself - which is by no means the case I have not for a moment doubted the practicability of the experiment - & had I not it would be losing time to perform it, - you having been satisfied with it, - & having seen the effect also myself produced by you — The last difficulty we have experienced is in the execution of the machine or mechanism - which shd be made neat, & with expedition; to complete it in the manner you have made it, & as we have accomplished it, with its common pretensions to neatness, - Indeed, in a manner, as doing nothing; - then having

so much time employ'd about it:- When I tell you, from first to last- more than 3 weeks time has been swallow'd up by the different trials- you will scarcely credit it, but 'tis the fact:- not trials respecting the upper:- trials respecting the covering:- Had the Manchon been for yr. experiment, or mine, & the Work had been an inch thick it would have avail'd nothing:- but being intended to accompany an Apparatus:- it became at once necessary to render the same less great in its execution, & reasonable as to its Value - what has been effected hitherto either by you or me has certainly not succeeded in those points - in a word the article must be rendered at a cheap rate the same must therefore be executed with dispatch - Journeymens wages at 30/ per week explain that - these Considerations & the repeated applications we have made, have convinced me of the fallibility of our plans as hitherto adopted - & have induced me to

to endeavor to effect the covering by some mechanical means I constructed the one exhibited in this - The middle of 3 tubes call'd No. 1 No. 2 - & the inner No. 1 represents the Manchon - No. 2 1/8th of an inch larger & 1/8th of an inch less the outer & inner supported in turn'd wood or pedestal & is also supported by, & concentric with the other tubes & tube - Tube 3 is then pounded to a powder & the two Cavities Viz: outside, & inside of the manchon are filled down so as not to be moved — Sealing wax

a hollow fire of charcoal is then made
& the machine carrying the manchon, &
the wax is suspended therein & occasionally lifted out
as the wax sticks by becoming liquid, more
powder thereof is supplied - it is suffered to
cool gradually - & when in a fit state it is
intended to remove the outer & inner tubes -
with the exception of the latter the whole
as described has been effected - I am under
some apprehensions that the sticking inside
will produce to us some difficulty - we
have oil the surfaces - you may be able
to inform me what will prevent the
wax sticking - this was the question I
ask'd you in my last - the result of
our trial was Rather I write inform you
of tomorrow — I have sent Mr Acton
his things, & had hop'd that he wd have
had an opportunity of explaining to you
the steps I have taken - as I find by
yr letter he had not I felt the impropriety
as I cd not send you the machine Yours

made, to give you a Drawing of it, I hope
you will be able to understand it —

I am sorry to hear you do not Con-
-tinue to recover - You perhaps have
forgot my Story of Lindaeus who was
a Martyr to the Complaint you now labor
under — a Plate of Strawberries taken
every day for a week cured him —

The same remedy may not be amiss
for Mlle Delisle - the reason inclines the
Repast —

I am
Dear Respected Sir
Yours most truly
D Wilkie

Thurst
2nd 22 June 1809.

Boy is much better
Please to excuse errors.

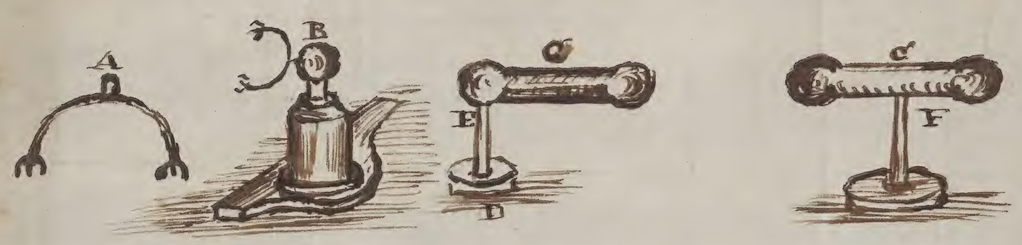
DS/

Ja. 17; 1806

Mr. Dr. Minister

Dear & respected Sir,

I have this day forwarded to your addrs+ the tiny Electrical Apparatus - the Condenser, & the Barometer - wh tomo add. Camina is case of accident - I hope they will reach you with safety - on the annexed Page I have sketch'd, in an exceedingly rough manner, representations of some of the appendages to the little Machine - for the hasty execution of which I beg you will receive my apology - A represents the wire Carrying the points that collect the fluid as it is generated - & conveys it either to the coated bottle B & thereby charges it - or to the Conductor C - the bottle fits into a space or dish made to receive it on the Board of the Stand of the machine the Pedestal D fits also into the same cavity - this Pedestal has a glass Pillar the Conductor is to be used, as | the + fits a Hole in represented, when Connected with the Stand of the machine - the collecting points are of course to add as to the bottle - the bottle may also be charged by placing it at the other end of the Conductor - I have added another pillar & Pedestal to enable you to use the Conductor + thus wise



in a situation detached from the Stand of the machine as represented at F - the Electrometer can be applied either on the top of the coated bottle or on one of the balls of the Conductor when the latter is connected with the bottle - I hope by this hasty explanation you will be able to use the thing &c+ with ease & satisfaction & remain

Dear Respected Sir
Your obliged Humble Servt
Dudley Adams

Kent Pl
Dec.r 17th 1801.

Post is going

Dudley Adams

Your goodness will I am sure acquit me of the charge of presumption in this matter, & attribute my hints & remarks to the real source, that of my zeal for the success of this fundamental Branch of Science. —

I am
with the greatest
Respect

Dear Sir
Your Obl.d
& Devoted Ser.t
Wolley & Wms

Hull
14th Oct.r 1807

Hull
1807

Dear Respected Sir,

I soon found on getting Windsor, which we did abt 8 o'Clock on Monday Morn.g, that I had left the Manchon in the Office room of the Castle Inn; I therefore wrote a Note by the Postillion who rode me to Sulmer, desiring it might be sent to your House; this I hope has been done, if not, you'll please to send William for it, — & forward it to me by Coach: as soon as I receive it, it shall be put on Stand, & return'd to you in a few days, Complete.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that on a further inspection of my books I found those alluded to; it therefore will not be necessary that I should Call on Dolan, unless you wish it: in the work, I have, Plate 1, & 15 are deficient, & as Boffe that supplied me, with them, I shall therefore send to him for the plates that are wanting. —

I have been so much occupied, on acc.t of my absence from Home, that I was prevented writing to you yesterday, as was my intention: I nevertheless have not been unmindful of the objects we have in View, respecting which I will make a few remarks. — It is my wish, & indeed so we settled it, that I shd wait on you next Sunday or Monday Sennight,

I cannot however help thinking, as I did when you proposed the measure, that to do so doing - my visit will not only be premature, but of little or no use, - prior to the work being executed, - and in lieu of such agreement I beg to submit for your Consideration the pursuance of the following mode, Viz; that I undertake the execution of the apparatus relating only to the 1st experiment, - Secondly then, when that was completed, that I send it to you for your approbation, revision, & correction: - that, when you had revised it, - you return it with your observations thereon; - that if the same stood in need of Correction, - that it be so corrected, and submitted to you again, - together with the 2nd apparatus & so on 'till the whole was completed entirely to your satisfaction, & then to be packed so as to form one Box or set of Apparatus. - by adopting this mode, I think it fair to presume, that I shall not only be more gradually initiated into the nature, principles & Construction of the apparatus; but shall acquire a more perfect knowledge of the science as explained in your manner; - at the same time, by pursuing a system, & method, obviate Confusion & mistakes, which, by undertaking the whole at once would be likely to occur. - When the whole was executed & packed, I think a visit to Windsor will be highly expedient & Proper, - & attended with real, solid advantage & effect. - as to the time that one might take to complete it in, in a workmanlike manner, I am not prepared to state with precision, but I suppose that in 3 or 4 weeks much will be done towards completing it. - You will please to favor

me with your reply to these remarks at your leisure.

I shall make a parcel of the two Books you were so good as to lend me, - together with one for Mrs De Luc's perusal, & send it by the Windsor Coach, tomorrow. - Before I conclude, I cannot refrain from proposing you to change the term Different - the same might stand in the French Works; - but in those you write Publish'd in England the term should be English - or, so expressed, as not to Clash with other English words: - the same ought also be in a degree harmonious, to the ear - & with a view to perspicuity, be a term familiar to the most Common understanding: - this the term alluded to is not, I very much doubt whether it could with the fullest advantage, to the Principles you wish to inculcate, be introduced to an English Audience or the Community at large. - the English language is not the sound, - & while I have no doubt, on a little application, be found to possess terms that will as fully convey your meaning as the word different. - I apprehend your meaning is to Convey the Idea - that the Electric matter is not a fluid, or if it is, it is a fluid that remains in a quiescent, & inert state, until put in to motion - as water Contain'd in a Vessel; - for instance, in a Cistern; which, will remain quiescent - until you set it running by turning a Cock, or give vent to the Vessel, in some manner or way. - If such is your Idea Could the ingredients alluded to, not be term'd - 1st, electric matter, - 2ndly fluid of motion. -

Electric

Pleasures

Sept. 1808

Evreux le 28 Sept.

Dear & Respected Sir,

I am favor'd with your very interesting letter; I do not complain of its Length; such matter could not speak to the understanding with the distinctness it does; it is what it should be. — The term Electric Column, I think judiciously applies, as also the Atmospheric Electroscope; that of the metallic sensitive may probably undergo some alteration:- As the Column, or metallic Column, in its sensitive, or semi animated, State; other Stages of the Process might have their respective applications also, - as, its State of Self agitation, or Continued Vibratory State, & Vice Versa - its quiescent &c — the words metallic sensitive, seem to want the substantive - as the Column - the Pile &c — but of these modifications more may be said, hereafter.

Touching the Zinc plates, - some pieces might have been rolled thinner than others, as you have found to be the Case; - but it was done without any particular view, on our part. - the thickness may therefore be increased, at pleasure, without producing to us more difficulty - if the Butter makers, however

will undertake, either to strike, or to squeeze them, I shall prefer it, as the same will save much useful time on our parts. they shall be applied to: and the result be communicated to you.

I am pleas'd to find, you prefer, & have determin'd on the adoption of, the plain gilt Paper; - it is rational to suppose that its action will be more permanent, & even, that the material would be more lasting.

I shall be particular in my choice of Sealing wax.

The construction of the Electroscope, may produce to us some difficulty, but as I am not given to despair the obstacles will probably be surmounted. - I shall attend to your Hints respecting the Glass. & your 5 Injunctions as touching the proofs with the Gold Leaf &c, & as soon as I have procur'd both the Glasses & the Gold leaves, disposed in shuts, after the manner you have so distinctly describ'd, some of each shall be expedited to you.

Respecting the Condenser. - the Construction of it must be settled finally. - when I see it at your House: - I confess I have not rev'd its Construction since it has been made, - and by no means am I wedded to the form I had given to it. - I shall be happy to see yours with all its improvements. -

I have procur'd the Paper, & send it herewith.

Mrs Adams wishes me to say - that I am shall be happy in the Honor of seeing you at Putney Green with Miss De Luc, next Sunday week the 2nd of Oct: if agreable to you; - the best Direction, is, to Drive to Fulmer, it lies between Stoke Park, & the High Turnpike Road to Gerrards Cross. - my little Place is about one Mile from Fulmer, in a straight direction, over Fulmer Common, to Red Hill Turnpike. - My House is the first Farm House you will come to, after you have quitted Fulmer and pass'd over the Common; in the Lane, on your Right Hand - the House is on your right Hand, but the Lane. - that is straight before you, from the Common. - I mention this to prevent mistakes. - as before you enter the Road, or Lane, leading to my House, there is actually a Lane on your right hand; you must not take, that Direction, - it will lead you wrong. - you are to go straight forwards as tho' you were going for Red Hill Turnpike.

Mrs Adams & the Children join me in affectionate respectful Regards to Miss De Luc, & yourself.

I remain Dear Sir. -

Your Obl.d & devoted Servt

J. Bailly

Fleet St

21st Sept.r 1784.

DSI

Written the 15th. May 1809

Dear & Respected Sir,

After a long silence, which, I was unwilling to break, but which at the solicitation of your Daughter, I was politely invited to do. I am favor'd with yours in reply. — It was with deep concern — & I learnt from Miss D's letter, the serious — Indisposition you had sustain'd, I was on the other Hand somewhat relieved by Her account of the state of convalescence, at which you had arrived; & I hope this Heavenly weather may prove propitious, and restore you soon to Health and your Friends. — —

In reference to your Letter, I beg to observe, that I can, & do, I assure you, make every possible allowance for the sensations you must have experienc'd, at not being able to fulfil your promise to the Publick respecting your Geological work, exactly to your wishes; — but you will also, recollect, and I am sure you will admit it, that if I was, in any way the Cause ~~of the Cause~~ of your attention being diverted from that Object, it was at your own particular suggestion & invitation; and not according to any desire or request of mine, and that of the Completion

P. T. O

of the Work entrusted to State, it was

of the Electrical Apparatus became first practic in my Hands; it was principally because the Construction of it had not been matured, nor finally digested and settled, previous to your application to me to Complete it: you will however admit, that Galvanism and the great variety of things that were made to facilitate your researches, & experiments in that Science, the Condenser, &c, not only occupied, and engrossed many of your particular attention & time, but produced much delay in the execution of the regular, Electrical, Philosophical articles, intended to constitute a select and imposing Apparatus; and indeed, to give my opinion thereon, I feel myself bound to state, that I consider that Construction, by no means Completed now, and that the mode or plan will experience further alterations & Changes before the same will be, by you, Considered as perfect.

I have expressed my sentiments, somewhat at large, to your Daughter, on the subject of this Instrument, and your Theory, I trust therefore I may be excused the necessity of entering thereon again.- There are, however, two or three points, that still require some observations, and which I shall beg to touch on, in elucidation of my own views of the matter, more particularly, as my remarks will be contrasted with, or differ from, the Ideas you have form'd.

— You say in your last, — and I really can form no other Construction from your expressions, than the meaning the lines, or words convey, — you say "that as for your reputation, it is nothing, &" — You, will excuse me, Sir; but in this matter I must be permitted to say, I think it is very much. — Have you not announc'd, yourself, to the Royal Society, as the Author, the Sole Projector of this New Theory, and most interesting System. — Is it not manifest, therefore, that you stand pledg'd to the Society, and to the Publick to finish, and to prove what you have advanc'd. — Who can effect this but yourself. — How can your Theory be illustrated, & Promulgated if you do not put the finishing Stroke to it. — and if you do not endeavour to accomplish this end, but remain indifferent to its success altogether, will you not suffer in the opinion of the Scientific World, & will you not suffer, even, in your own opinion. —

The apparatus is certainly in a very forward State, but that is all that can be said of it, for it stands in need of much revising: and again, neither the Drawings, nor the explanation, and references, are under the System & Arrangement, or scarcely thought of. — I have taken a general view of this System, which in fact is as much as I could, or is necessary to be done, while the work remains in its present unfinish'd State, it will

be quite early enough, for me to devote serious and elaborate Study and attention to it, when the whole of the Apparatus shall be Completed and render'd a fundamental matter, - a determined ground work to proceed upon: for you must, my Dear Sir, be sensible that the Nature of my avocations are such, as to preclude the possibility of my bestowing, unnecessarily, any time, upon one Subject without it's producing an injury, to me, in one way, or other; - Therefore - I am to Study, and make Myself Master of your Theory, so that at all events, be plac'd, before me, in a connected, unbroken Shape, & not as it is at present.

In a word, according to the present State of your Health, and Considering the weight under which you must suffer from your agency to Complete, your Geological work, I think there is little, or no Prospect of your Theory in Electricity being established, at present; - I should think for almost, advise that the same be suspended. - If it is your intention to abandon the matter altogether, I have a right to expect you will be candid with me, as in that Case I shall require to be remunerated my expences, - in this I th.d certainly be moderate; - if on the Contrary, it th.d be y.r determination, at no great Cons.a of time, to resume the subject, & to persevere until the same be Completed, giving the Aid & performing what I have stated in a former letter, I w.d return to the subject with pleasure, & use my exertion in the Completion of the Apparatus, th.t could possibly be effected; - but in the present State of things, as pertaining to y.r occupation &c, it is wholly impossible, I think, for you to expect that I could conduct any thing therein th.t be proceeded with. -

It was my intention to have wrote you this by Post, but so frequent have been the interruptions th.t I was favoured. -

Your Compl.s to Mrs. & Miss D. I remain

Dear Sir,

Your mos: ob.t

Hum.e Serv.t

Dudley Adams

Nut St.

13.th May 1809.

DSI

March 1810

Dudley

Most Respected Sir

In one of your last letters, you desired me to send your bill; you were then in Devonshire, partaking of the mild Atmosphere of that County, & particularly employ'd in Geological pursuits, - it was not my wish to interrupt you in the Cash at that time, more especially as I knew you were far from being strong & in good Health; I am now however informed that you have completed the work, in those branches of Science, I take the opportunity therefore, of Calling your attention to the bill you requested; - which, I herewith transmit to you; - if you wish for the Acct more in Detail, the same shall be forward to you on the shortest notice; - The Barometer & Thermometer you ordered for the Duke from their being entered in my Books to you, shall be paid are charg'd to you. ——

The whole of the Electrical work,

DSI

executed, at your instance, for the pure illustration of your Theory, has been collected into one mass, and shall be forwarded to you, as I am by no means inclin'd to Continue any longer to execute the said apparatus.

With Affectionate regards to Miss Dickinson

I remain Dear Sir

Your most respectfully

Wm Adams

Pitt St

12th March

1810.

DSI

Mr. Dudley Adams —

15 May 1809

My dear Sir

I beg you will listen attentively and without prejudice to what I am going to represent to you ~~again~~, in order to see, in what I may be wrong, you consider the set of small electric instruments as being far from completed; while, in my opinion, there is absolutely nothing wanting, but to settle whether the magic picture shall be, a plate of glass covered with sealing wax or a jagganed metallic plate. This I have left to your decision, though the latter is by far the most convenient. You have plates of both kinds in the box which you have carried home with you; I know nothing wanting to produce the intended effect to the public, having also left to your judgment the manner of placing the instruments into a box. You have seen yourself all the experiments made with the instruments of that box, and with regard to the magic picture, you have both kinds in full action; it is for you to decide, which of them you would chuse, as being the most convenient. In short, according to my own judgment, I wish no alteration in the instruments, and if in your opinion they are wanting to be improved, you are at full liberty to do what you think proper, since it is for your own credit.

The reason of your thinking that so much is still to be done is, permit me dear Sir to tell it you sincerely, the same which has brought us both into the present disagreeable situation; namely, not having ever applied yourself to make the experiments which I have been applied to make myself, though I have had them before my eyes these three years, by the suppression of which I have never lost, but on the contrary have gained considerable reputation; which reputation I made long ago, by many proofs of my abilities, and which I am now endeavouring to support by some more difficult to make, but as simple as possible for such an ingenious person as you. During so much time you must be from your long habit of constructing instruments of that class, the whole electrician as you have never been able to give a day for repeating yourself those experiments; this has been a misfortune for us both; but as I have told you, it is the cause of our present situation, and certainly it is not my fault, nor could I foresee it.

And this point being decided,

A particular mistake appears to have ~~been~~ occasioned your putting off the attention to those experiments; and this is your having imagined, that before I had given you the full application of my theory to these experiments, you could not begin to attend to them and make them your own. But this absolutely is not the case. Surely the theory is simple, and you have it fully explained in my works; but in reality, the experiments to be made with those instruments are totaly distinct from the theory; they exhibit new and interesting facts, whatever be their cause. I had a common philosophical instrument maker, who would have been desirous to add those instruments to his stock, I would not even have spoke of theory with him; you were to understand the causes of those effects. I constantly explained to you, while making the experiments, the reasons which therefore in your absence, and in providing you with my works, to recall those explanations to your memory.

You are mistaken again with respect to my reputation. If the undertaking were failing in your hands (which — I am far from supposing) the blame would not fall on me. Soc. can my Dispute with the Roy. Soc. have any influence with the instruments fabricated by you, since Mine was delivered to them long before I had any connexion with the Roy. Soc. Your reputation is not in the least concerned in the success of my experiments, you have only to view them as a common philosophical instrument maker, who was to execute for his own benefit, and not for mine, the instruments I had ordered of him. Mine was delivered to the Roy. Soc. long before I had any connexion with them

We must now, my dear Sir, set aside all explanation on the part, and mind only what is to be done; confining ourselves to the present, as ~~our~~ our correspondence will be from a great distance. I set out this week in order to enjoy most of the fine weather, in an easy journey — which will take three days, from Thursday. Then be so good as to write to me, at Miss Burges, Ashfield, Honiton, Devon, and you may be sure, if my health — will permit, that I shall answer you punctually —

With my best wishes for you, Mrs Fitzroy and your family, to which joins my daughter, I remain —

from the 2d Page. ⊙

With respect to your own undertaking you tell me & you will & recollect, and I am sure you will admit it, that I was, & in any way, the cause of your attention being directed & from Geology, it was at your own particular suggestion & Kinvitation, and not according to any desire or request & of mine. & Surely, if I was the innocent satisfaction to their instances, ~~that~~ in my invitation that my views for you were ~~very~~ pure & friendly, and directed of all sort of interest if ~~for me personally~~ besides the pleasure of seeing, and you were to judge for yourself.

& but you must also recollect, that there was no request of mine either for you to undertake it. And as for my invitation,

for you and personal

& never expressed to you any other sentiments

⊙ 2 Pages

Mr. Dudley Adams, Ashfield July 29
1809

My dear Sir

It is long since we have not heard from each other. As for me, after having supposed tolerably well, thank God, the Journey till here, the weather becoming ~~copies~~ wet and cold, I have been again affected with gout, first on one foot, then on both; so that I had been hardly a week here, trying to walk in the garden with a stick, when I was ~~again~~ confined with my feet on a stool, and have been so till now; for this attack has been more grievous than the former, a gathering having formed in the left great toe; the nail is fallen since which time I have less suffered, but, though thank God it is much better, it is not yet cured; and my strength is less and less, not being able to take any exercice. I hope however, as we are in the most favorable season, that I have good chance of gaining some Strength again.

I have directed Chan[r] Rivington to send you a copy of my Elementary Treatise on Geology, which I hope will produce some effects in many respects. You have surely heard that my papers having been balotted in the Comittee of the Roy[l] Society, the majority has been for ~~for~~ postponing their publication. let not that make you uneasy with respect to your Instrument; it may turn out better than it will appear to you at first; and I am always ready to help you as far as my powers will permit.

With my best compliments to Mr[s] Adams, and your children, I remain Sincerely

Dear Sir

Your most obedient
Servant & friend

My Daughter, who was not very well when I left Windsor, is now with her friends in Birmingham, and a little better

24. April 1810

Dear Sir

Your Letters have by some time become more & more surprising and offensive; but before I change my language and dispositions towards you, I will once more attempt to bring you to justice, by rendering you attentive to truth.

What you call the maze of matter contained in my last letter, is a plain narrative of facts which you ought to have attentively followed, if you wished to judge of what on which side was truth. But you say that, was not your object, & to follow me to these facts substituted yours in this, though I will however follow you.

Your opinion, Article!

¶ We may be compared (you say) to two lines, speaking figurative=ly, that form the angle, these at the point they are but ¶ one. ¶ Then you proceed to express what you think of our common setting out, and the causes of the divergence of our lines; but nothing is more imaginary than your supposition as I shall prove to you successively.

¶ At the commencement (you say) of our joint career, ¶ we apparently had but one view, that of mutually ¶ serving each other; you, in giving me your ideas, ¶ me, in reducing them into practice. ¶ If you had read what you call a maze, you would have understood that there is nothing real in this first statement. which you would have seen if you had entered into what you call a maze. On my part I did not give you my ideas, but such as I presented to your sight, and put in your hands, a set of instruments performing completely what they were intended for, and that you found very important. I wanted nothing from you, either for the construction of these instruments, or for their being known in the philosophical world; since they completely performed their effects, & in the work I gave you, there are described with plates, not only of their parts, but of the instrument mounted for (that I shewed you) have all the experiments you attempted to create in order to support your interest for me, in this undertaking, by pretending in one of your letters that I had pledged myself to the Roy. Soc. for demonstrating my system on a comparison of the electric fluid with that of glass, which you could not follow, but I shewed you in my letter, that it was this error in you.

¶ declaring to you however, that if you continue not to attend to facts, answering positively to every Article of this letter, I cannot take any more notice of desultory letters.

Article II

You say that yours I have in that undertaking (the construction of this Instrument) was to reduce them to practice, with a view to publicity. (not to in any part) but so: it was with a view of reducing them to your practice, to your means of execution, in order to fabricate & sell them; & if advantage & more publicity was amply compensated for you by bringing you to more notice as an electrical instrument maker: & who my conscience tells me), that, the friendship you would not say that it was now concern of yours.

Article III.

My assistance was only then to see whether, in bringing the construction, within your means of fabrication, or prevent the effects; this you did repeatedly; & with what view did you undertake to follow that object in a manufacturing manner, making tools, for more quick execution, and employing many workmen? Was it for me? Certainly not: for your needs consulted me in that respect. You charge in your bill, the time of your workmen, the brass, sealing wax, Spirit of wine, a microscope, which performs very well; & why? Because you found those; & the time of your workmen, for making a concern of mine, that when so late that it was first made by you began a secret of the means; & when you told me your manner, you would not that other instrument makers, profit by your ingenuity & expence to produce it! And here again, you followed your constant way, not to trust the experiments, through fear, lest after every attempt them to me to be tried. You sent me your machine forgoing these.

essays to be tried. Art IV

In fact you never gave you any commission for these instruments; you undertook to execute them for your own profit, and at your own risks; therefore you have absolutely no claim upon me for your expences, the whole was your absolute concern.

DSI

Art IV.

You give yourself a strange proof of your having considered only your own interest in this undertaking, and even how jealous you were of other people of the trade entering into competition with you; ; it is in these very terms; expressions. "I cannot but feel indignant at your transmitting your drawings &c to the Royal Society at my expence, & giving by that means an opportunity to the Public of profiting there by, instead of being preserved as a thing Sacred to me and which, by your promises, you were all through the undertaking pledged to do. This very transaction has all the appearance of Smuggling the thing from me, and forms a prominent part of the indifference you have shewn to my interest, when any new object had engaged your thought." This is a prominent proof that your considered all that you fabricated from my ideas, to be your own concern & for your profit; this proof escapes you in your indignation, and does not less manifest your thought. Just cease a moment to be indignant, and listen to the facts & be a moment calm and listen to truth.

My experiments concerning Galvanism were begun with my own instruments, when our intercourse began for the other object. They were from the beginning intended for the Roy. Soc.; they were entered in our Journals, when we had it. Hold you that I wished to have that you know?

this small, nine plates (and you undertook it for me.) I other Sorts of plates; some glass pillars, glass bottles wanted afterwards gold leaf, tinfoil, brass pieces, and you had them made for me). Of any Instrument being thus paid, & made a drawing of it & wrote a Memoir on that Instrument, made a drawing & wrote the Paper for the Roy. Soc. All this you Knew; & being at Windsor, You had the Paper & the drawing & a copy of the latter was made for you: you knew that it was to be sent in your name; in this paper I have taken the opportunity of mentioning your having assisted me in the execution; & that you would construct it; for the Roy. Soc. let them suppose that you would construct it; as I which by the bye you had never undertaken. This would only begin, when my Paper should be published in the Phil. Transactions; then you knew very well, and it never came into your mind to say a word of disapprobation; on the contrary, you considered it as noble of the Instrument maker to be published in the Phil. Trans. and you never uttered

What evil genius then, has prompted — you has to bring again me such a foul accusation against me, for a communication to the Roy. Society, — which you knew at the time was to be made, & you must now acknowledge could not have been avoided.

was produced
With better parts executed in your work shops. All therefore that I could intend for you, by friendship, was, That as you were acquainted with the construction of the instruments, you would be ready to produce it when it should be noticed by communication from you. If you call it the Smuggling the execution lay it at the door of the Committee of Roy. Soc. who, by an ungenerous conduct, have not given more Paper; While the reading of the minutes in the Roy. Soc. has so much interested the experimental philosophers — that the instrument has been executed by many. But you find some accusation against me, and you have wanted to accuse me of something; this in the most unjust & unfair manner.

You pretend also, to bring an accusation against me, "you commend in describing the divergence of our lines, other occupations, various were the causes that diverted you, & which you fostered and encouraged from the main object; Galvanism now engaged your whole thoughts, domestic troubles interfered &c. and ultimately Geology: this latter absorbed the whole of your thoughts." Strange! (but you say your perfectly true); that for the sake of helping you in an undertaking that you made for your profit, without any interest of mine but by friendship, I was to abandon my own & become a journey-man instrument maker. What I engaged to do I have faithfully performed; you with my advice; and I have gone much beyond that, for I have assisted you with my hands as a journey-man instrument maker. Therefore I followed the strait line of all the help I could give you, with all the interest of friendship. But the divergence has been strongly produced by you, in never accomplishing your daily labours, by becoming acquainted with the Instruments

* you say on this subject "O. Adams can bear me out, that I frequently let me married to her, how singular it was, that you seemed to think nothing of the main object."

* In short, (and mind this) if I never gave you any commission what ever for these instruments) you undertook them for your own profit, and have not the least claim upon me for your expenses.

that you undertook to execute, or with the manner of making the experiments for which they were intended, though I had many times shewn these instruments, & made the experiment in your presence. Of this you furnish me again a strange proof in your letter. "I am (you say) of opinion, that it would be better some Person under your Eyes at Watts, for instance a Clock maker or Watch maker, would undertake to execute your apparatus." For what purpose this will shew you how inattentive you were become to what was your own concern in this affair! Here you shew your carelessness & ignorance of what has been done in this business. The box of Instruments that you carried from hence the last time was complete, & a model for you and your workmen. I had employed a Whole week with other Mr. France to finish the two dozen of Instruments which you had begun to finish the last time I was with you, & I had performed all the experiments in your presence; it was ready to be shewn by you in your Shops, if you would have applied to the experiments yourself, as you perfectly understood them. There was nothing more to do but to direct your workmen that all the sets begun should be finished in the same manner; then to go on manufactering these Instruments, much wished for by many experimental philosophers. I have therefore nothing more to do with them; I have fully accomplished my promise; and this you would know, and not insult me in the manner you have done, if you would have accomplished what I have to often solicited you to do for your own good, the making your self acquainted with the Instruments & the Experiments.

I have never spoken to any body of our contest; but if it were to be known, it would not turn to your credit as a constructer of Physical Instruments, who is at present distinguished in his profession, that in the course of two years you have not been able to discover, that your Watch was totally different from those Instruments that you had undertaken to construct for your own benefit, and that there was nothing more, but to go on manufacturing, & shewing the experiments to those who should wish to see them.

* without you could never understand what you were about.

* except some trifling objects, that I had pointed out to you, and would have done again if you had applied to me, and you had only

* to purchase them; nothing more now & then of some questions when they were to be asked

Art. VIII.

What can be your meaning in advising me to employ here a Work=
=man, I cannot comprehend. I think I am obliged to direct
the finishing of pieces made in your Work Shops of which —
I have not the least Knowledge. You charge in your Bill
£81.12 for workmen wages, and a great many articles —
considerable sums for implements; while I have only
seen that one Set of instruments which I have myself —
finished for your model, the pieces concerning my —
Condenser, and the Electric column. What is all
the rest, of which I have no Knowledge? For —
What obligation can I have to direct the finishing of things which are
no concern of mine, and would serve to nothing at all
But unless for you meaning to pay in this respect.
You would never Notwithstanding my wearings, which
consider my age, made it probable that I could not long
assist you with my active endeavours; and this at last
has happened. I told you in my last letter, that from some
time I had not been able to go out of the house, &
since that time I can only crawl in it my room;
I am falling a pace, and if there is any chance
of my being able of going
to go through another winter, it is only by going
to spend the Summer in the country; Therefore what
I have before told you often has happened, the time is —
come when I cannot any more help you. This
is a direction of Providence to which you must submit.
It is fortunate, and a comfort to me, that you
really do not want my help, any more; since you have
a model to follow; and that you have
only to bring all the other sets of instruments that
were begun by your own orders, to the same point where
as the Set finished. If you will at last study the latter
enable yourself to make the experiments, there will
not be wanting observations for all that you shall
produce; and if you find some difficulty, you may
write to me as long as I shall be able to answer;
You say you would be happy to wipe your hands
of this business; I have seen this long ago, with great
concern, and it has only happened because your other avocations
took up entirely your mind from the beautiful new experiment

deprived by these instruments which at first struck
you, and thought worthy the attention of an electrical
instrument maker. If now you wish to transmit
that branch to somebody else, it is your own con=
=cern, for I wish always I can wipe my hands of it
with pain and great confusion which I am forced to do.
having performed any part in making you capable
of executing these instruments.

I could end with this, Knowing that you cannot
reply any thing with solidity to any of the
foregoing articles; but for peace sake I will go
a steps farther. I told you in my last letter, that
when, being in your house, I saw you would not
undertake to make yourself acquainted with the nature
properties of the instruments you had undertaken to execute
of the construction of these instruments & the experi=
=ments to be made with them, I would willingly
have given a sum of money for having to have
received with you into a connection, in which you had at first
begun heartily, and had since neglected. Now I
am disposed to add to the Service I intended to do you
in that respect, a sum of money, besides what I owe
of your workmen wages, and of the
implements remaining in your hands for your own
work. I propose then the most that you think
you must pay, and I will judge if it be con=
=venient to me. I have made as little delay as my
weakness could permit; I am sincere, and this
is my last word — I am

Sir

Your most

* besides what I owe you for objects asked and received, in order to bear a part of the

ADAMS (Dudley, younger son of George Adams the elder.....d. 1773), Constructer of mathematical and electrical instruments, maker to king George III. Baden 48

8 A.l.s., adressed to J.-A. De LUC (1727-1817) swiss meteorologist, reader to Queen Charlotte of England. « *London Dec. 1806 to march 1810* », 27 pp. in-4 with sketches and drawing, and copies (12 pp. in-4) by the hand of De Luc from the letters adressed by him to Dudley Adams, the lot 80.—

Interesting scientifical correspondence. (6457)

envoyée étoit si longue, que si je n'avois un empressement infini... » (6

28. **REHBERG (Auguste-Wilhelm, 1757-1836),** homme d'État allemand, au de nombreux ouvrages.
L.a.s. (en français), « *Hannovre 17 sept. 1792* », 3 p. in-4 1

Il communique ses impressions à « l'auteur du mémoire sur le princip l'obligation morale », belle lettre philosophique. (5893)

29. **STROZZI (Giambattista, dit Filipo, 1488-1538),** homme politique ita